

## Sierra Club kills muni expansion

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Reported Sierra Club opposition, coupled with earlier objections from golfers and horse owners, led the local Planning Commission to defer action on plans to expand the 18-hole municipal golf course and move the Las Palmas Equestrian Center.

The environmental groups sought to delay commission action on the \$14 million plan which would add 18 holes to the municipal course, add water and sand hazards to the existing course,

and move the equestrian center to a city-owned site at Mesquite Avenue and Vella Road.

The Sierra Club in 1990 blocked the city from letting a developer build a two-hotel, 900-home resort in the undeveloped Palm Hills. It also sued to stop a developer's \$960 million plan for a posh resort in the Palm Canyon area south of Murray Canyon Drive.

Golfers objected to paying higher fees to underwrite the expansion.

## Course slated for ex-smelting site

ANACONDA, Mont. — The local Old Works smelting site may become a golf course.

The Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO) Superfund has a \$1 million contract with the design firm of golf pro Jack Nicklaus, Golden Bear, Inc. Half will be for conceptual design and engineering, half for construction oversight for a "world class" course.

A golf course is considered a reasonable land use for the site, once wastes either are removed or "capped."

Course completion probably will be in 1996. The course's design will incorporate an interpretive walking tour of historical features associated with the Old Works smelting site.

## Insects invade Coachella Valley; superintendents fighting back

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Bug off, atenias.

The 84 golf courses in the Coachella Valley have been under attack by these insects who have been feasting on the roots of grass plants.

"It's tough enough to grow grass in 100-degree weather," noted Ross O'Fee, course superintendent at The Springs Club, "without being under underground attack."

The Hi-Lo Desert Golf Superintendents Association, of which O'Fee is immediate past president, recently struck back with a fund-raising golf tournament at The Springs earmarked for turf grass research and aimed at atenias.

The tournament realized \$20,000. Greens chairmen, club presidents, club pros and other participants took many a hearty swing at a vexing problem while enjoying the day.

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## Pros to pay for improvements at Indy courses?

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation, seeking \$3.3 the next three years for improvements on its 12 municipal golf courses, is concentrating its search on the pocketbooks of course professionals.

Contracts with the dozen professionals, paid \$3,000 a year, expire Dec. 31.

Proceeds from pro shop operations, cart fees, lessons and concessions supplement the pros' salaries.

The city plans to renegotiate with the professionals or, as the city terms it, create an enterprise fund. Whatever the terminology, the course professionals will likely be the poorer, but the city may realize much of the \$1.2 million for improvements needed this year.

## Indiana DEM reorganizes

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has reorganized its enforcement efforts into a single office.

Air, water and waste management programs now are under one IDEM umbrella.

Said director Kathryn Watson: "This multimedia approach recognizes that different types of pollution violations can occur at a given site, that they may be inter-related, and they should be corrected at one time."